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Celebrity Pg34

Kate, Lance call it quits

You'll now be able to have a peaceful dinner

REGISTRY Canadians will be able to register on a do-not-call list to screen out pesky telemarketers starting Sept. 30.

The date announced yesterday by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is 2½ years after the commission started its formal process to set up the registry, and five years after do-not-call legislation took effect in the United States.

The CRTC's arrangement will enable Canadians who do not want to be contacted by telemarketers to register their phone numbers. There will be no charge for this.

Telemarketer calls will not cease immediately, the federal regulator cautioned, as callers will have 31 days to update their phone lists. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

World page 10

Israeli PM to step down in September

Beijing Games page 16

Fix funding criteria: Athlete

Metro Homes page 21

Bathrooms get a makeover

Coldplay **Hot ticket**

J.P. MOCZULSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin, right, and Jonny Buckland perform last night at the Air Canada Centre. It was the first gig of a two-night stand at the ACC.

IOC called 'spineless'

China allowed to block websites

The International Olympic Committee and the Beijing Games plunged deeper into controversy yesterday after a senior IOC official was forced to admit the IOC had cut a deal with Chinese authorities to allow them to block access to a wide range of websites during the Games.

The admission stunned free speech advocates in Asia, Europe and North America, triggering accusations the IOC was "spineless" and had caved in to dictates from the Games' authoritarian hosts.

Only two weeks ago IOC president Jacques Rogge said in an interview, "There will be no censorship on the Internet," during the Games.

But yesterday an embarrassed IOC press chair Kevan Gosper acknowledged he had learned through a Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee press conference the Chinese would censor the Internet and — on further inquiry — he discovered his own organization was complicit in the plan.

"I regret that it now appears that BOCOG has announced that there will be limitations on website access during Games' time."
IOC's Kevin Gosper

"I regret that it now appears that BOCOG has announced that there will be limitations on website access during Games' time," he told reporters.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pearson border officers to receive sensitivity training

The federal government is putting border officials at Pearson airport through sensitivity training so they can more appropriately deal with Arab and Muslim passengers.

The Canada Border Services Agency is contracting out training sessions for up to 500 of its border services officers, stressing the need for those who screen passengers to "effectively perform their enforcement responsibilities in a respectful manner" at Canada's busiest hub.

Groups representing Canadian Arabs and Muslims are welcoming the sensitivity courses, which will be carried out between September and March 31, 2009, as necessary and overdue.

"After 9/11 we became all potential terrorists without doubt, and we still have some examples of people being picked up from the line because they wear long beards or the hijab," said Mohamed Boudjenane, executive director of the Canadian Arab Federation. "It still happens on a regular basis."

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Police raid GTA loan firms
Ten people have been arrested and another 10 are wanted after Durham Regional Police discovered 22 allegedly fraudulent loan companies operating in the GTA. For the names of suspects and suspect companies, visit www.drps.ca and click on Project Marathon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Message received

If there is a lesson people should learn coming out of the city's largest bicycle theft ring, it's that they should register their wheels. Toronto police report since they recovered some 3,000 bicycles, the number of people registering has gone up almost tenfold. According to police data, 532 people registered their bikes in May. But in July, those numbers ballooned to almost 4,000. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Metro Movies

Brendan Fraser, above, returns as explorer Rick O'Connell for an all-new adventure in The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Read Billy's Best Bottles for tips on more great wines to enjoy this summer
Watch MetroTube of the Day for a clip of Mr. T's ill-fated candy bar ad, and a video report on deep drilling and thermal energy
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews
Play online Crosswords!

Police on hunt for 2 suspects

Dominic Shearer-Hanomansingh, 20, was on the cusp of adulthood and his family is struggling to understand why his life was taken so abruptly, so violently.

Shearer-Hanomansingh, nicknamed "Taz," was distributing flyers for an event Saturday night when he was shot in the face, relatives said yesterday. Gunfire also took the life of Devon Wynter, 40, a father of three inside a banquet hall late Saturday night.

Yesterday, police released suspect descriptions in each case.

Detectives displayed a photo of a Chicago White Sox ballcap believed to belong to the shooter of Shearer-Hanomansingh. He's described as 5-foot-10 to 6-foot with braids.

Wynter was gunned down at a licensed event with 300 guests in the banquet hall one floor above the Disciples Revival Church. Police are seeking a man 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10 with short braided hair and a tattoo on his neck of either numbers or letters.

"Do the right thing so we don't have to come hunting for you," said Det. Gary Grinton.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pedestrians with umbrellas protect themselves from the morning rain yesterday along York Street.

Rain, rain go away ...

Toronto is well on its way to experiencing the wettest summer on record after easily washing away the Pearson airport mark for the most rain in July yesterday.

"All we had to do was spit on the ground and it was going to create a record," weather guru David Phillips said yesterday after 10.8 millimetres of rain was measured at the airport weather station to set a new standard for the wettest July: 193 millimetres (a little more than 7½ inches).

The previous July record at that site, where rainfall has been measured since 1937, was 182.3 millimetres in 1980. Before yesterday, the rainfall total was just 0.1 millimetres shy of that.

Phillips, senior climatologist at Environment Canada, said breaking the record for the wettest summer ever — 335.9 millimetres in 1986 — is well within reach now.

Some 303.4 millimetres have fallen since June 1.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sunny Vancouver

- Only 13.6 millimetres of rain had fallen this month at Vancouver International Airport, most of that on Tuesday. The coastal city's July record of 89.6 millimetres was set in 1997.

Bike sting evolves into drug probe

The saga of Igor Kenk is ballooning into one of urban myth proportions. What began as a police bike-bait sting on the streets of Toronto is turning into a drug probe.

As Kenk, a self-proclaimed former Slovenian police officer, waited for his bail hearing to begin yesterday at Old City Hall on numerous bike theft charges, police charged him with four more drug offences, bringing the total to 21.

That's after more than six kilograms of marijuana were found rammed among bikes in two garages, on Dufferin Street and Dovercourt Road. Previous police seizures included marijuana and 85 grams of crack cocaine and cocaine powder from the Yorkville home Kenk shares with his wife, concert pianist Jeanie Chung, said Det.-Const. Aaron Dennis.

Kenk made a brief appearance in bail court before he was sent to a special court because of the long list of charges. A publication ban has been placed on the evidence heard.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CONFERENCE The opening of the Seventh Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, the largest meeting of its kind anywhere, will open today in Toronto. It will bring 250 artists and scholars together to discuss the rich, varied, challenging cultural and intellectual life of the country. For the first time, half the conference participants will be women, highlighting a trend that is often overlooked by the West. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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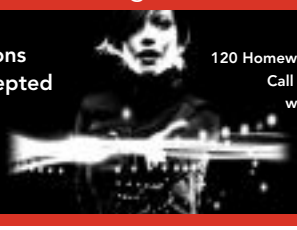

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Mother, child struck by car

A three-year-old boy sustained serious injuries after he and his mother were struck by a car while crossing in the middle of the street on Warden Avenue, just south of Eglinton Avenue, yesterday morning. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges dropped

Incident at C.W. Jefferys school

All charges against the six youths accused of sexually assaulting a young Muslim girl in the bathroom at C.W. Jefferys have been dropped.

"An underlining problem in this case is that the police investigation (was) hampered" because of the length of time between the alleged incident and when it was reported, said Crown attorney Laurie Gonet.

"Memories do not improve over time."

While the Crown might have a "reasonable" possibility of securing a conviction, "given the problems with the case and the wishes of the complainant, it is not in the interest of the complainant" to continue, Gonet said in court.

Several mothers sitting in the courtroom breathed loud sighs of relief. "This whole thing has been a nightmare," one said afterwards. "I'm taking days off work. He's missing school. He walks down the street and people say, 'Oh, there's the rapist.'"

> **"This whole thing has been a nightmare."**
> Mother of one accused youth

In the spring of 2007, a panel investigating safety at C.W. Jefferys Collegiate after Jordan Manners' murder uncovered shocking allegations that a 14-year-old was dragged into a school washroom and forced to perform oral sex on two males in October 2006.

Police later charged the six youths.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dean Hart, the city's manager of forestry operations, surveys the scene yesterday after a 60-year-old oak tree fell on a children's playground in High Park on Tuesday.

Fallen tree was rotting

The 60-year-old oak that came crashing down Tuesday afternoon in High Park had been slowly rotting for a decade.

Standing nearly 20 metres, the tree towered over a magical castle playground, much adored by children and adults alike. When it collapsed, a woman and a 10-year-old child were injured.

The city had intended to open a section of the playground yesterday, but the rain hampered cleanup efforts. It is unclear whether it will open today.

Even though the city regularly inspects trees, officials say this particular tree appeared healthy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Storm calls

- The city has had a flood of storm calls — 7,500 so far this year — related to trees such as downed branches and damaged roots. In 2007, it received 9,000 calls.

News in brief

CARIBANA Despite the high-profile addition of Scotiabank as Caribana's primary sponsor this year, one of the largest festivals in North America still lags in one area: Corporate funding. While Scotiabank's contribution has not been released, a city hall source said it was second behind the $475,000 received from the city. Caribana received a combined $1.25 million in provincial and municipal government grants in 2008, including $300,000 from Ontario's tourism ministry. That does not include the $72,000 in fees the city agreed to waive this year.

PURCHASE After a month of speculation as to who had purchased the David Dunlap Observatory lands in Richmond Hill, the University of Toronto announced this week that Metrus had come away as the highest bidder. The development company will pay $70 million for the 77-hectare property.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Road rage accused back in court next month

Wayne Winsor, 39, will be back in court Aug. 27 to face charges in a road rage incident on Highway 401 that claimed the life of a Milton man. Police said a vehicle pulled in front of Tony Greco, 55, and hit the brakes, making Greco lose control. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Freight train **Seven cars derail near Kingston**

IAN MACALPINE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers check the scene of a seven-car derailment of a CN freight train west of Kingston yesterday morning. At least 2,000 passengers travelling between Toronto and Ottawa or Montreal faced delays. Via Rail said passengers would be taken by bus until the tracks were cleared.

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Did Oxford turf don?

Ex-U of T official leaves post

Officials at Oxford, Britain's oldest and most revered university, yesterday refused to discuss the circumstances surrounding the sudden departure of Ontario's Jon Dellandrea from his position of pro-vice chancellor at a critical moment in Oxford's largest-ever fundraising drive.

British media reports suggest Dellandrea, recruited in late 2004 on the merits of his record-setting endowment work at University of Toronto, ran afoul of California-based alumnus Michael Moritz, who offered Oxford vast sums from a fortune built on investments in Google and YouTube on condition that Dellandrea be fired.

Dellandrea's colleagues expressed shock at his abrupt departure, which comes less than two months after Oxford unveiled a crucial campaign to expand its endowment by $2.5 billion.

They offered fulsome praise for the aborted work the Canadian administrator.

Moritz, 53, last month donated $50 million US to his alma mater, Christ Church, one of Oxford's 39 colleges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alumni

- There are more than 3,000 Oxford alumni in Canada, while an estimated 20,000 living Americans attended the prestigious university.
- University officials say Oxford graduates in North America tend to be more active in their support compared to those in Britain, where 125,000 alumni live.

Deal could reopen casinos soon

STRIKE A tentative agreement has been reached to end a strike by more than 800 workers at Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. casinos in Toronto, Brantford and Sudbury.

OLG and the Canadian Auto Workers said yesterday the union members, who walked out June 1, would vote during the day. If they ratify the contract, the provincial gambling operator "is hopeful the facilities at Brantford and Sudbury will reopen this weekend." It did not say when operations would return to normal at Woodbine Racetrack.

Wages, split shifts and the use of part-timers were key issues in the dispute. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Newfoundland cancer doctors threaten to quit

More than 1,000 women in Newfoundland and Labrador face the prospect this fall of seeking cancer treatment elsewhere in Canada after three cancer specialists — the province's only gynecological oncologists — announced their resignations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

May riding high

A new poll suggests one-in-five Canadians would vote for Green party Leader Elizabeth May, left, if she ran in their riding. A Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests 26 per cent of Albertans would vote for May if she ran in their riding, followed by 23 per cent of British Columbians and Ontarians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper wooing Quebec voters

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made a direct appeal to Quebec nationalists last night, while challenging Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion to "fish or cut bait" with a fall election.

Real Quebec nationalists are builders who don't want to break up the country, Harper told a Quebecois audience of 1,500 in the packed and sweaty St-Agapit arena, southwest of the provincial capital.

Chasing the same coalition of western libertarians, social conservatives and Quebec nationalists that once formed the backbone of Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservative majorities in the 1980s, Harper praised the local Conservative MP in this rural Tory bleu enclave as a "real nationalist."

"Because the real nationalism doesn't mean separatism," Harper said, delivering the lines only in French.

"The real nationalists are proud of their region and love Quebec without wanting to break up the Canadian federation."

Harper saved his longest English excerpt of the speech to challenge Dion to back up his election musings with action. "When the time comes to stand and be counted, he always backs down," said Harper. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CLEMENT ALLARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defence Minister Peter MacKay, centre, and members of the Conservative caucus applaud yesterday after photographers were asked to leave the room at the Conservative caucus meeting in Levis, Que.

Wait for tax cuts: Flaherty

Canadians can expect more tax cuts — but not this year as economic woes put a strain on Ottawa's coffers, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says.

"This is not a year for big new spending projects or big new tax reductions."
Jim Flaherty

Flaherty struck a cautionary note yesterday as he dampened any expectations for new tax cuts and big spending initiatives from the federal government in the near future.

"They can expect over time further tax reductions. We still believe Canadians pay too much tax," Flaherty said at the start of a Conservative caucus meeting in Levis, Que.

"This is a time of economic slowdown ... This is not a year for big new spending projects or big new tax reductions," he told reporters.

He said Conservative tax cuts so far have meant more money for corporations and individuals, including tax savings for Canadian families totalling $3,000, money that would help stimulate the slowing economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LOTTERY Critics say a public inquiry into the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. is long overdue after police revealed they had no evidence to charge a former retailer who won 167 prizes worth $1.2 million over a nine-year period. "There is a stink there," New Democrat justice critic Peter Kormos said yesterday, insisting a forensic audit of past winners first promised by lottery officials June 3 and again this week is not enough.

ROCK SLIDE Police have a dog team searching the site of a massive rock slide that severed the only direct route between Vancouver and Whistler, the main corridor for the thousands of people who will travel between the two main venues for the 2010 Olympic Games. An entire cliff face collapsed onto the Sea-to-Sky Highway late Tuesday night, stopping traffic on the busy thoroughfare.

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Provinces agree on wilderness area
Ontario and Manitoba have agreed on the establishment of a wilderness area along their border. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Concert ticket prices won't be a gas, gas, gas

Rising fuel costs could mean you'll pay more at the gate

Add one more purchase to the already long list of things that could get more expensive because of high gas prices — concert tickets.

Industry watchers say concert sales were "remarkably robust" in the first half of the year — considering the rise in fuel prices and tough economic times in parts of North America — but artists' tour budgets may have to be adjusted going forward.

And that could mean even higher ticket prices.

"Most of the tours that were budgeted this summer were budgeted much earlier in the year before the price of fuel went up," said Gary Bongiovanni, editor of industry magazine Pollstar. "I think you'll probably see more of an impact going forward."

The highest grossing North American tour in the first half of 2008 was Bon Jovi's, which brought in $56.3 million, with an average ticket price of $88 and a total of more than 639,000 tickets sold, according to Pollstar.

Canadian crooner Michael Buble was No. 5 on the list with $32.5 million in gross sales and an average ticket price of $71.

Other Canadian acts that cracked the Top 100 included Rush at No. 12 (average ticket price $66), Three Days Grace touring with Breaking Benjamin at No. 58 ($32.50), Anne Murray at No. 73 ($55), Blue Rodeo at No. 84 ($44) and Leonard Cohen at No. 93 ($112). THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Concertgoers rush to get a spot at the front of the stage at the Pemberton Festival in Pemberton, B.C., on Sunday.

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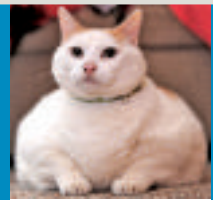
Zimbabwe zeros in on the problem
Zimbabwe will drop 10 zeros from its hyper-inflated currency — turning 10 billion dollars into one — the country's reserve bank said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Chunky cat needs a home

A 20-kilogram feline was found Saturday without a collar in Voorhees, N.J. Officials at the Camden County Animal Shelter hope she gets a nice — hopefully, diet-friendly — home. "She's built like a quarterback," says Deborah Wright, a shelter volunteer and current foster owner of the kitty. Shelter officials are calling the porky cutie "Princess Chunk." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Married soldier admits to killing pregnant girlfriend, police say

CRIME The Fort Bragg sergeant charged in the death of a pregnant soldier was the father of her unborn baby but married to someone else, police said yesterday.

Fayetteville police Chief Tom Bergamine said Sgt. Edgar Patino, 27, admitted fathering Specialist Megan Touma's baby.

Touma, 23, was seven months pregnant when found dead in a motel bathtub last month.

Patino, who was arrested at his home Tuesday, acknowledged to being in Touma's hotel room June 13, the last day her hotel room key was used, police said.

He was scheduled to attend a court hearing later yesterday.

Police also believe Patino was the author of a letter sent to the Fayetteville Observer and police from a person who claimed to be a serial killer responsible for Touma's death.

Patino purchased a typewriter the day before the letters were sent, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tradition **Keep swimming**

JAY DIEM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, right, and his daughter Annella watch as the Chincoteague Ponies make their 83rd annual swim yesterday near Chincoteague, Va. About 150 wild ponies are recuperating after the annual crossing of the 200-yard channel between Assateague Island, Maryland, and Chincoteague. Ponies are auctioned each year to raise money for the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, which cares for the Virginia herd.

Olmert to quit in autumn

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, facing corruption allegations and plummeting approval ratings, announced yesterday he will resign in September. The move threw his country into political turmoil and raised doubts about progress for U.S.-backed Mideast peace efforts.

Appearing angry and reading from a prepared text, Olmert made the brief statement at his official Jerusalem residence where he harshly criticized the corruption investigations against him. He said he was choosing the public good over his personal justice.

"I was forced to defend myself against relentless attacks from self-appointed 'fighters for justice' who sought to depose me from my position, when the ends sanctified all the means," he said.

Olmert has consistently denied wrongdoing, but he pledged to resign if he was ever charged with corruption.

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ehud Olmert announces his resignation yesterday.

Olmert's term was to end in 2010 but he said he would not run in his party's primary election, set for Sept. 17, and would step down afterward "in order to allow the chairman to be elected and form a different government quickly and efficiently."

"I was forced to defend myself against relentless attacks."
Ehud Olmert

He did not answer questions from reporters.

Olmert's popularity dropped below 20 per cent at one point after his bloody but inconclusive war in Lebanon in 2006, and a string of corruption allegations and police interrogations have battered him in recent months. Political analysts here have predicted his resignation for weeks.

Dan Margalit, an Israeli political analyst and longtime friend of Olmert who recently fell from his favour, called the decision to step down "a sad end to a miserable career."

U.S. President George W. Bush spoke to Olmert just before he announced his resignation and wished him well, White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.

He said Bush intends to work closely with Olmert until he leaves office and has appreciated the Israeli leader's friendship, leadership and work for peace.

The State Department said Olmert's departure would not affect U.S. efforts to broker some kind of peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians by the end of the year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AUCTION A pair of Queen Victoria's bloomers, with a 50-inch waist, were snapped up for almost $9,000 by Barbara Rusch of Toronto at a central England auction.

BAD NEWS, BEAR Minnesota officials tried for six days to capture a bear that had a plastic jar stuck over its head, but ended up killing it after it wandered into a city during a festival.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

CIA confronts Pakistan over spies

The CIA has confronted Pakistani officials with evidence that members of the country's spy service have deepened their ties with militant groups responsible for a surge of violence in Afghanistan, possibly including the suicide bombing this month of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, the New York Times reported.

A top CIA official travelled to Islamabad this month with new information about ties between Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency and militants operating in Pakistan's tribal areas, the newspaper said on its website. Its sources were American military and intelligence officials.

The Times said the CIA assessment found links between the ISI and a militant network believed to have ties to al Qaeda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karadzic now in tribunal's hands

WAR CRIMES The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal has Radovan Karadzic in custody, 13 years after indicting the Bosnian Serb leader on genocide charges.

Karadzic is charged with 11 counts, including genocide and crimes against humanity, for allegedly orchestrating the 44-month siege of Sarajevo and brutal ethnic cleansing campaigns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kuwait oil company earns more than $4 billion
The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. says its profit shot up 74 per cent on earnings of $4.15 billion US in the April-June quarter. It says 79 per cent of profits were from operations and the rest from investments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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OIL $126.77 US $4.58

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Not out of woods

Indicators point to sustained tough times

The Canadian and U.S. economies are not out of the woods yet — although it may look like it when national production reports are released today, say observers.

Economists are expecting increases in gross domestic product numbers from both countries, with Canada likely to edge up 0.2 per cent. And the U.S. economy, which has shed hundreds of thousands of jobs, is expected to come with a 2 per cent advance.

But the U.S. advance, and the expectation of quicker recovery in Canada, is more illusion than real, says economist Sal Guatieri of BMO Capital Markets.

"It's a pretty shabby recovery when you consider the tons of stimulus thrown at the consumer and businesses."
Sal Guatieri of BMO Capital Markets

"Two per cent growth for the U.S. is not bad, but it's a pretty shabby recovery when you consider the tons of stimulus thrown at the consumer and businesses," he pointed out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HBC names Foote as Zellers CEO

STORES Former Loblaw and Canadian Tire executive Mark Foote has been named president and CEO of the Zellers chain of discount stores. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top EU negotiator blames U.S.

WTO Peter Mandelson, the EU's top negotiator, yesterday accused the U.S. of refusing to budge even after its demands were met over the WTO farm import issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gasoline sales increased in 2007

GAS Statistics Canada's 2007 gasoline sales report said volumes in 2007 rose 2.3 per cent to 40.9 billion litres, despite a rise in the price for a litre of gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JFK airport Baggage pileup

RICK MAIMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luggage is sorted inside Terminal 8 at JFK International Airport in New York yesterday. A computer software glitch crippled the baggage handling system at an American Airlines terminal, delaying flights and causing a luggage pileup at ticket counters.

Business in brief

YOUTUBE Mediaset is seeking $779 million US in damages from YouTube and Google for allegedly misusing video produced by the media empire founded by Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

GAMES Nortel Networks Corp. was named the official network infrastructure partner of the 2012 London Olympics. It will provide a platform for British Telecom to operate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM to cut salaried workers?

JOBS General Motors Corp. plans to cut 15 per cent of its U.S. and Canadian salaried workforce — or around 5,100 jobs — by Nov. 1 as part of a plan to help the automaker ride out a slump in U.S. sales.

Word of the expected cuts came two days before GM plans to release its second-quarter earnings report. Analysts are predicting a loss of $2.63 per share on revenues of $44.6 billion US amid plummeting U.S. truck and SUV sales and restructuring costs.

GM, Ford and Chrysler all have announced salaried layoffs. Ford plans to cut 15 per cent of its salaried costs by tomorrow, while Chrysler plans to cut 1,000 jobs worldwide by Sept. 30. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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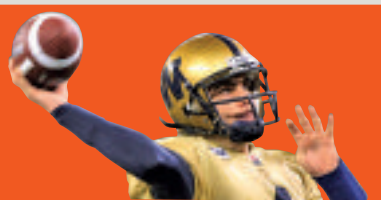
Leclaire signs three-year deal with Columbus
The Columbus Blue Jackets agreed to a $11.4-million US, three-year contract with their No. 1 goalie Pascal Leclaire yesterday. Leclaire is coming off his best NHL season. He was 24-17-6 with a 2.25 goals-against average and .919 save percentage in 54 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports



Dinwiddie wins weekly award

Winnipeg Blue Bombers quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie, left, was named the CFL's offensive player of the week yesterday after throwing for 450 yards in a comeback win over Calgary. Edmonton's Montez Murphy was named the top defender, while a pair of B.C. Lions, Ian Smart and Paris Jackson, were named the top special teams player and top Canadian, respectively.

SPORTS EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Rays send Jays back to .500

B.C. native Richmond decent in first big league start, but gets loss

RAYS 3 BLUE JAYS 2

There was no storybook ending to Scott Richmond's unlikely big-league debut.

No, the North Vancouver, B.C., native's start yesterday afternoon finished like so many other games for the Toronto Blue Jays this season — in a defeat littered with missed opportunities at the plate.

The 3-2 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays marked a disappointing end to a three-game series the home side had entered with hopes of pulling itself back into the race.

Instead, the Blue Jays (54-54) fell back to .500, lost ground on the Rays (63-44) by dropping two of three and now trail the AL East leaders by 9½ games. For a cherry on top, catcher Gregg Zaun went public with his desire to play elsewhere while third baseman Scott Rolen learned he needs regular rest to ease a "mechanical" issue in his left shoulder.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tampa Bay Rays Carlos Pena, right, is congratulated by Eric Hinske after hitting a homer as the Rays beat the Jays 3-2 yesterday.

Richmond (0-1), the 28-year-old former shipyards worker who spent the past three seasons playing unaffiliated baseball, did his part to try to turn things around.

The right-hander allowed just three runs over 5⅓ innings, and while the Rays did take some good hacks at him, he managed to keep his team in the ball game before a crowd of 40,322.

His future will be closely watched by the Canadian Olympic team, as his callup earlier in the week forced him off the roster for Beijing. Should the Blue Jays return him to the minors before tomorrow, he'll still be able to play in the Games, but the club says he's up for an extended look.

The Canadian team plans to hold off naming a replacement for him until all hope is lost.

Carl Crawford's RBI triple in the first opened the scoring and came after the Blue Jays failed to turn two on B.J. Upton's grounder to short.

Lyle Overbay hit a two-run shot of Edwin Jackson (7-7) that gave the Blue Jays a 2-1 lead, and that seemed to settle Richmond until the fourth, when Carlos Pena tied things up with a solo shot.

Eric Hinske immediately followed with a double and came around to score when another former Blue Jay, Gabe Gross, hit into a double play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yankees acquire Pudge from Tigers

TRADE The Detroit Tigers sent veteran catcher Ivan Rodriguez to the New York Yankees for hard-throwing reliever Kyle Farnsworth yesterday, a trade that filled glaring holes for both contenders.

Rodriguez, a 14-time all-star in the option year of a $50-million US deal he signed with the Tigers in 2004, will step into the hole in the Yankees' lineup created by Jorge Posada's shoulder injury. Posada had arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder yesterday and is out for the season.

"You have to give up to get," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "You have to do the balancing act." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOTTERIES
Results not available at press time.

Wings sign Filppula to five-year deal

The Detroit Red Wings made a subtle move yesterday that could prove to be a spectacular one if Valtteri Filppula lives up to his potential. Filppula signed a $15-million US, five-year contract with the Red Wings that keeps a talented forward on the roster for a while. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TORONTO 3 Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees 13 Baltimore 3
Kansas City 4 Oakland 3 (10 ings)
L.A. Angels 9 Boston 2
Detroit at Cleveland
Seattle at Texas
Chicago Sox at Minnesota

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Colorado 7 Pittsburgh 4
Florida 7 N.Y. Mets 5
Philadelphia 8 Washington 5
Philadelphia at Washington
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee
Cincinnati at Houston
Arizona at San Diego,
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit at Cleveland, 12:05
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05
Seattle at Texas, 8:05
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee, 2:05
Colorado at Florida, 7:10
St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:10
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:10
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

CFL

WEEK 6

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Hamilton at Montreal, 7
B.C. at Edmonton, 10

TOMORROW'S GAMES

Winnipeg at TORONTO, 7

SATURDAY'S GAME

Saskatchewan at Calgary, 8

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

SUNDAY'S GAME

FC Dallas at TORONTO, 4

Dubois pulls off upset

Though it's the second straight time she's reached the third round of her home tournament, it was an entirely different Stephanie Dubois scratching and clawing her way yesterday into the round of 16.

The native of Laval, Que., defeated the tournament's 13th seed Maria Kirilenko of Russia 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (4) at the $1.34 million US Rogers Cup.

Dubois also advanced to the tournament's third round in Montreal in 2006, but that was only after a dominant Kim Clijsters — then ranked No. 2 in the world — was forced to retire with a left wrist injury leading 6-1, 2-3 in the second set.

This time Dubois earned it, gutting out a match that took nearly three hours and fighting back after falling behind 5-4 in the third set with Kirilenko serving for the match.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Stephanie Dubois celebrates her victory over 13-seed Maria Kirilenko from Russia during the second round at the Rogers Cup yesterday in Montreal. Dubois won 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (4).

"I was doing my best, but (Clijsters) had the momentum when she injured herself," Dubois said. "But today, I think I really went to take the match. I believed in myself that I could win this match, and I went all the way. So it's different, but I'm really proud right now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2nd round results

- Ana Ivanovic (1), (Serbia beat Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.
- Maria Sharapova (3) Russia beat Marta Domachowka (Poland) 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.
- Anna Chakvetadze (6), Russia, def. Jill Craybas, U.S., 6-2, 7-5.
- Dinara Safina (7), Russia, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Russia, 6-2, 6-4.
- Patty Schnyder (9), Switzerland, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-1, 7-5.

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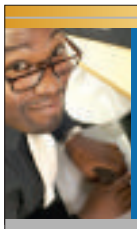

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TFC finalize McBride deal

MLS Toronto FC has finally landed its man.

The MLS team acquired forward Chad Barrett, a 2009 first round pick and future considerations yesterday for the rights to forward Brian McBride.

The deal had been rumoured for more than a week.

"It was important that we received the No. 1 pick in this deal and hopefully it will serve us well in the future," Toronto FC manager Mo Johnston said in a statement.

The 23-year-old Barrett has five goals and four assists in 16 games this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Indy heading back to Toronto for 2009 race

RACING Michael Andretti has another triumph in Toronto.

Andretti has helped bring open-wheel racing back to the city where he posted seven victories of his own as a driver. The Toronto Indy was one of 18 races on next year's IndyCar series schedule, announced yesterday.

The race had been trimmed when Champ Car and IndyCar unified earlier this year. Then Andretti Green Promotions, of which Andretti is a co-owner, bought the assets of the Grand Prix Association of Toronto in May and was instrumental in bringing the race back for next year.

"Obviously, I do think it holds a really special place in his heart," said Andretti Green Racing co-owner Kevin Savoree in a conference call. "From the first time the opportunity became available, Michael ... felt like we had to put a deal together and make a deal happen. He's been very, very actively involved."

Toronto's race, on an 11-turn, 1.721-mile street-course at Exhibition Stadium, will take place July 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

NBA Restricted free agent forward Luol Deng and the Chicago Bulls have agreed to six-year contract that could be worth as much as $80 million US, according to a person within the league who is familiar with the situation.

NFL Buffalo Bills backup quarterback J.P. Losman returned to practice yesterday, a day after being held out because of a swollen thumb on his throwing hand.

NHL The Minnesota Wild bought out the final three years of Mark Parrish's contract yesterday, ending the winger's frustrating return to his hometown market.

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Athletics

Sprinter Julien Dunkley has been dropped from Jamaica's Olympic team, but officials wouldn't say if he's the athlete booted earlier in the week for failing a doping test, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Beijing Games

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

FIFA orders clubs to release players

SOCCER FIFA ruled yesterday that clubs are obliged to release players aged 23 or under for the Beijing Olympics, clearing the way for Lionel Messi to play for Argentina despite opposition from FC Barcelona.

Slim Aloulou, a Tunisian judge on FIFA's player status committee, said the release of under-23 players was "mandatory for all clubs."

In a statement, FIFA said: "It would not be justifiable to prevent any player younger than 23 from participating in such an event if his representative team had qualified."

Pollution levels drop in Beijing

CHINA Beijing's pollution levels dropped yesterday to less than half of the previous day's, the lowest reading since authorities began pulling cars off the road and shutting down factories to address athletes' concerns about air quality ahead of the Olympic Games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tomorrow's lineup

SAY WHAT? What many Chinese consider idle chit-chat has now become the latest area of censure in Beijing as it prepares for an influx of Olympic visitors. Pick up tomorrow's Metro for more.

7 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Funding flawed

Criteria too general, athlete Riker-Fox says

CAIT WILLS
for Metro Canada

When Joshua Riker-Fox got the news he would be representing Canada at the Olympic Games in Beijing, he was too busy scrambling to survive to celebrate.

"I've been relying on money from fundraising events in my hometown and private donations for the last six years," the modern pentathlete says, adding there is a glaring difference in funding between winter and summer Olympic sports.

In order for an athlete to receive federal government funding, or carding from Sport Canada, there is an analysis of "the technical needs of the sport, as measured by the number of athletes required to field a team," and the "results of the Olympics ... and world championships in the last four-year period."

Riker-Fox contends the criteria in place are too general and the funding process should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

"There is a major flaw in the formula used to analyze carding," he said. "They have two different tools: They look at historical performance at the Olympics, but — especially in the case of the modern pentathlon — there isn't enough data for analysis. There were no women in this field before 2000 at the Olympics, and Canadian men haven't qualified since 1992."

And because the modern pentathlon involves highly specialized skills, Riker-Fox says participation in the sport is lower than others, which he says makes a numerical analysis of participants unfair.

"They look at our sport and say, 'Josh, we can't give you any money because there isn't historical representation.' But I've made contributions; I've medalled at the Pan Am Games," he said.

"Is there an imbalance? Yes. Is it being corrected? Yes."
Steve Keogh

Riker-Fox also says the Canadian Olympic Committee has been concentrating on its own mandate to the detriment of summer sport athletes. The COC is responsible for the Own The Podium program, which is concentrating on funding athletes for the 2010 Winter Games.

"Is there an imbalance? Yes. Is it being corrected? Yes," Steve Keogh, director of communications for the COC, said about the differences in funding between the Excellence program, which funds summer sports athletes, and the Podium program.

In response to the assertion that the Excellence program has seen less federal funding, Alex Baumann, executive director of that program, conceded "that certainly has been the case in the past," although the government has agreed to supply the program with $8 million this year and $16 million next year, as well as an annual influx of $24 million in perpetuity.

Another way the COC says it is rectifying any financial disparity is the new Athletes Excellence Fund, which Keogh says could benefit all athletes and is based solely on individual performance. Through this fund, medal winners will be able earn $20,000 for a gold, $15,000 for a silver and $10,000 for a bronze.

"We hope to pay out a lot of money," said Keogh.

While Riker-Fox has every intention of medalling during his event on Aug. 21, he says the continuing battle for funding has left lingering doubts about the entire Olympic funding process.

"We have been disregarded by them for so long," he said.

"They don't understand what it means to put on a Canadian jersey and represent your country."

CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PHOTO

Modern pentathlete Joshua Riker-Fox is competing on Aug. 21.

Realistic medal target for Canada is 15, up from 12

Canada has some catching up to do at the Olympics, but gains will be modest in Beijing. Fifteen medals is a realistic target for a country that won 12 four years ago in Athens.

Host China and powerhouse U.S. will gobble up most of the gold over the 18-day competition, which unofficially starts Aug. 6 with women's preliminary soccer matches. The opening ceremonies are Aug. 8.

The Canadian team of 331 athletes lacks depth in the two sports that offer the motherlode of medals: Track and field and swimming.

The country's gold, silver and bronze will be spread over a range of sports including flatwater paddling, rowing, diving, taekwondo, trampoline and women's wrestling.

After winning 22 medals in Atlanta in 1996, the country's performance declined to 14 in 2000 and then dipped to a dozen (three gold, six silver and three bronze) in 2004.

Canada finished 19th among participating countries in total medals won in Athens.

The Canadian Olympic Committee's goal is to get into the top 16 in Beijing, but hasn't set a hard target for medals.

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The age of high-tech, customizable bathrooms

page 21

The newly launched Fountainhead VibrAcoustic bath by Kohler Co. is a multi-sensory bath that integrates water, light and vibration with four different relaxing music experiences.

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Technologically inspired design

A decade of quantum technological leaps mean today's designers have in their hands a virtually bottomless toy box of new materials and methods.

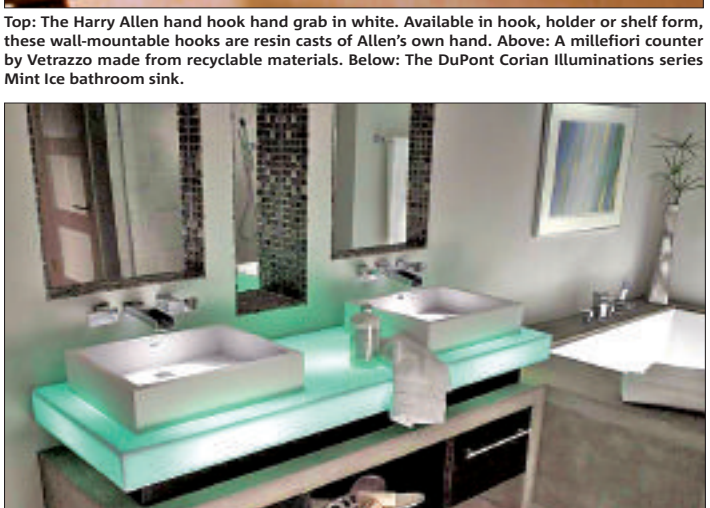
Take the award-winning installation Lightshowers, put on by DuPont Corian at this year's International Contemporary Furniture Fair. Egg-like polished rocks and smooth slabs of Corian were underlit with nature sounds generated from a hypersonic speaker; when a person crossed the sound wave's path, it essentially "woke" the sound.

Or look at Vetrazzo, a Richmond, Calif., countertop maker that turns a good portion of the state's recyclables — old traffic lights, curbside trash, windows, even dishware factory rejects — into chic countertops. The technology boom echoes an earlier era: The icons of early 20th-century Modernism — Breuer, Le Corbusier, van der Rohe, Gray, the Eames, and others — eagerly adapted machine-age materials like tubular steel and moulded plywood into furniture that was new, daring and still accessible.

Now advances are not just industrial — they're green. Eco-friendly paints and adhesives, water-driven machinery, precision lasers, even organic powder coatings for steel are all relatively new technologies borne of the industry's desire to balance style and stewardship.

With computers, de-

Top: The Harry Allen hand hook hand grab in white. Available in hook, holder or shelf form, these wall-mountable hooks are resin casts of Allen's own hand. Above: A millefiori counter by Vetrazzo made from recyclable materials. Below: The DuPont Corian Illuminations series Mint Ice bathroom sink.



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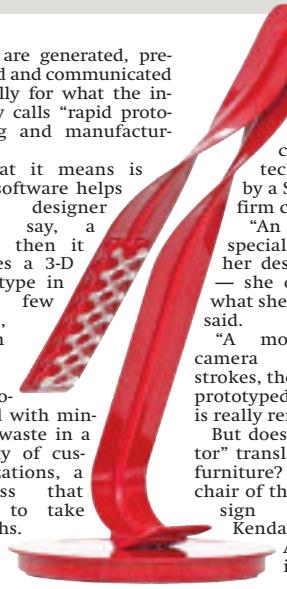
signs are generated, presented and communicated digitally for what the industry calls "rapid prototyping and manufacturing."

What it means is that software helps the designer draw, say, a chair, then it creates a 3-D prototype in a few hours, which can then be produced with minimal waste in a variety of customizations, a process that used to take months.



Emmanuel Plat, president of ConranUSA, is excited about the technology used by a Swedish design firm called Front.

"An artist uses a special pen to sketch her design in the air — she can't even see what she's drawing," he said.

"A motion capture camera records her strokes, then the image is prototyped — the process is really remarkable."

But does the "wow factor" translate into useful furniture? Max Shangle, chair of the furniture design program at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Mich., says products made with revolutionary technology must still resonate with the consumer.

"The question isn't, 'Can we make it?' but, 'Should we make it?' At the end of the day, we have to produce things that appeal to and satisfy the consumer," he said.

"Using a radical new material isn't enough."

In his book, The Design of Everyday Things, Donald Norman chides those who put artistry or gadgetry before good design. "Well-designed objects are easy to understand," he writes.

For that, consider the LED lights that now may line the perimeter of a sofa, a room, even a swimming pool.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top: The Leaf Light designed by Yves Behar. Above: The cobalt Skyy vanity counter by Vetrazzo.

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Pest control

Keeping mosquitoes at bay

ArrestingDesign
Jeffrey Fisher & Tammy Schnurr

busted@arrestingdesign.com

If you are attacked by mosquitoes every time you step into your backyard, take heart. You can still enjoy it, but there are a few things you can do to make mosquito pests feel unwelcome — after all, not only are they annoying, they also carry disease.

Eco-friendly bug spray or bug zappers can help temporarily, but neither will help you to take back your yard over the long term. What you really want to know is a little about mosquito life cycles — because you want to learn how NOT to make your backyard an inviting place for mosquitoes to raise their babies!

First of all, mosquito young are larvae that live in water and feed on micro-organisms and organic matter — so any standing water left around the house for even a few days is a standing invitation for mosquitoes to get in a family way. Keep in mind that even a few days of standing water can produce a bumper crop of mosquitoes!

Eliminate all standing water, such as boggy eavestroughs, standing water in saucers under pots, water in cans or plastic containers, garbage cans, wheelbarrows, barrels and so on.

If you've got old tires anywhere, get rid of them to avoid that dreaded hillbilly look — but also because they serve as lovely places for mosquitoes to breed. Put away, invert, cover or punch drainage holes in all containers that collect water.

Better yet, get rid of them because they probably don't look great in your backyard anyway.

If you've got hollow stumps or cavities in trees that collect water, try to eliminate these as well by filling the holes or digging out the stumps.

If you've got a birdbath, lovely as it may be, it can also produce mosquitoes. To prevent this, you need to change the water every two to three days to wash out the larvae before they hatch.

A small bubbling fountain in a birdbath also serves to discourage mosquitoes because they prefer stagnant water.

If you should be fortunate enough to have an ornamental water garden on your property, investigate the idea of stocking the pool with mosquito-eating fish, such as goldfish, minnows or guppies

Bubbling fountains will also help to prevent the stagnant water that mosquitoes love.

As always, do not overwater your yard — any puddles or damp spots could be a lovely nursery for mosquito larvae! Leaky faucets and spouts can also produce a puddle, so fix these as well.

Ditto for pet water containers — make sure they are not left standing outside after Poochie has retired for the evening.

For the same reason, drain kiddie pools daily or if you have a larger above-ground pool, cover it when not in use. If you have an in-ground swimming pool or a hot tub, keep it chlorinated or treated and filtered. When not in use for extended periods, cover tightly.

Certain species of mosquitoes are attracted to light, so keep outside lighting to a minimum near entry doors; keep those doors screened or close them at sunset.

After you do your best to discourage mosquitoes from living in your backyard, you must still take precautions. Avoid those times of day when mosquitoes are most numerous.

Also avoid perfume or smelly soaps and creams since they will attract several different types of insect, including mosquitoes. Finally long pants and shirts in light colours are a must if you must be outside during mosquito happy hour!

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network.

You can't always believe what you see on TV

OrganizedZone
Brenda Borenstein

metro@organizedzone.com

Home makeover television shows are all the rage now. So many people watch them looking for ideas, inspiration and, of course, shock value. I find them very entertaining especially the "how dirty is your house?" kind of show. I think, however, there should be a warning label on the bottom of the screen saying, "Danger, don't try at home without the supervision of a professional." I say this because I have seen many people start projects then put them on the back burner due to complications and disasters. I am certain it looked easy on TV.

Clutter is something that requires personal attention, not a 15-minute TV segment.

Home and garden types of shows are a lot of fun and have to be watched in a realist way. Know that much of the finished product that you see has taken longer than the alleged time and budget indicated. So don't feel bad if you attempt to undertake an inspiring project "as seen on TV" and it costs more in time and money than anticipated. The intentions are always good; however, don't be too proud to call in a professional to bail you out if you are stuck.

Recently, I watched one that went something like this … while you were out we threw everything out, brought in furniture and voila, a new lovely room. Ahh!! In 30 minutes, less commercials, it was miraculously finished.

After the show, when the cameras stop rolling and the fancy designers parted, so did the furniture.

Behind the scenes, I imagine items that hadn't been dealt with just tossed in the garage for the owner to deal with later. Or even worse, much of the items just tossed out to the trash.

With real production budget concerns, more than likely the furniture was on loan, not purchased.

Yikes!

After the show, when the cameras stop rolling and the fancy designers parted, so did the furniture. I assume the homeowner's guest would be left with an empty room and a garage full of junk.

That's showbiz baby!

Who volunteers for these shows anyway? They must be thrill or torture seekers.

I laugh to myself trying to imagine the possibility of any of my disorganized clients volunteering for a mess makeover on TV, even if it was free. The shame and embarrassment would be too much to bare for them.

Clutter and decorating your home is a personal matter and it has to be dealt with in an organized and sensitive way.

Until next time, happy organizing.

Please feel free to send me your thoughts on home decorating and organizing shows at metro@organizedzone.com.

Brenda Borenstein is your professional organizing guru. For more, visit organizedzone.com.

Flushing out bathroom renos

You've likely had this problem before: You're enjoying your shower when someone in the house flushes a toilet and it turns from heaven into Hades.

That scenario has been an annoying facet of daily bathroom life for decades — the rapid increase in a shower's water temperature when a toilet is discharged. But thanks to digital temperature controls and single-valve technology, homeowners remodelling their bathrooms can make shower scalding a thing of the past.

That's one of many technological and design trends available in bathroom remodelling. Other trends in bathroom designs include: The installation of showers with multiple heads and body spray nozzles, and music; heated floors and toilet seats; raised sinks; brushed nickel and chrome fixtures; and the use of remote, digital controls to turn on showers and lights.

"The bathroom, especially the master, is one of those places of refuge either at the end of the day or a long week, where people are going to seek solace," said Michael Menn of Design Construction Concepts. "They don't want the postage card-sized bathrooms of the past."

One of the hottest trends in bathroom remodelling is the emergence of what some call the "car-wash" shower that provides a spa-like experience. These are tub-less showers with doors rather than shower curtains. They can have a wide shower head that makes it look and feel like a rain shower, plus another hand-held shower head with an extension. Meanwhile, jets and nozzles protrude from the wall itself, spraying water in multiple directions.

These showers can include a steam bath and can be controlled by a digital keypad that allows bathers to customize where the water shoots from and how hot it will be.

Technological advancements allow showers to operate on a single valve, which means the water volume and temperature control are manipulated in one knob rather than two or three. That single-valve technology essentially separates the toilet's water flow from the shower's, preventing shower burns, said Ibrahim Guzman of Coral Gables Plumbing.

Many people like to keep the shower and the tub separate. The newer, more expensive tub designs include whirlpool-like jets, extending nozzles, light and sound therapy, and tiny holes that shoot air after a bath is completed to prevent the accumulation of mould and mildew. Like the shower, the tub can be controlled digitally.

"The bathroom, especially the master, is one of those places of refuge either at the end of the day or a long week, where people are going to seek solace."
Michael Menn of Design Construction Concepts

"If you want the best tub and the best shower, you try to do it separately," said Doug Walter, a Denver, Colo., architect. "But sometimes you have to be realistic and think, 'How often do I take a tub bath?'"

Toilets also have been improved, especially in this era of conservation. Not only are there toilets that use just 4.5 litres of water per flush — down from the average flush capacity of 7.2 litres — but also, some "dual-flush" toilets have sensors that determine how much water is needed to get rid of the waste.

Eric Moore, an interior designer with Kohler Co., estimates homeowners who install water-saving toilets and shower fixtures can result in significant savings.

"That's an area in the market that we're pushing," Moore said. "Everything that we're doing goes toward water conservation."

When it comes to design trends, more bathrooms now have raised sinks, with the bowl-shaped vessel standing fully above the vanity rather than mounted down into the vanity itself.

Cheaper floor tiles, ceramic and marble, have made linoleum practically extinct. Floors and toilets can be heated. The most popular fixtures and towel bars tend to be brushed nickel or chrome rather than brass, and modern, straight-line designs are the rage.

Homeowners are adding skylights or large windows to bring more sunlight into the room, Walter said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KOHLER CO.

Kohler Co.'s DTV custom showering system features a digital interface — the panel at the left-hand side of the photo — that controls water, sound, light and steam for a "total sensory experience." Here it's shown with the company's WaterTile bodysprays.

Canadian Gardening Magazine
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Time for a bit of hanging around

ON THE MARKET Make the most of your gardening downtime with these comfy hammocks:

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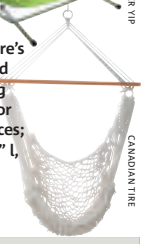
LEE VALLEY

The waterproof, extra-wide Fatboy Headdemock Hammock is available in eight colours (lime green shown); 55" h x 110" l, $590, including stand; *fatboycanada.com*.

ROGER YIP

Canadian Tire's compact and pretty swing hammock for smaller spaces; 54" h x 38.5" l, $39.99.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COG.CA Long before pesticide bans and widespread concern for the environment became the norm, Canadian Organic Growers quietly and steadily advocated earth-friendly practices, offering information about sustainable food production. *Cog.ca* presents a plethora of facts for the concerned gardener, as well as an events calendar, e-newsletters and access to the COG library.

A plantaholic's paradise

Marnie Wright is hooked on expanding her collection

A self-declared plantaholic, Marnie Wright readily admits she just needs plants. Chuckling, she says, "You've heard that commercial — 'You know you waaaant it!' A certain specimen will catch your eye. It opens up a whole new area of gardening possibilities — before you know it you're hooked, needing all its different varieties."

Tucked away on a country road in Bracebridge, Ont., is the property where Marnie pursues her plant passion. As you drive along the lane to her home, Rocksborough Flower Farm, pretty woodland fringes the lot, but it's not until you step out of the car that you experience the full beauty of her landscape.

TRACY COX

The colourful "long border" bursts with a collection of daylilies amid pink phlox, red 'Gardenview Scarlet' bergamot, white shasta daisies and purple Veronicastrum sibiricum.

By midsummer, Marnie's garden (encompassing the entire front yard) is in all its glory, as the 1.8-metre-tall perennial borders reach their peak.

The beds are full of life as a dozen hummingbirds flit among the masses of colourful flowers, bees buzz and frogs peep out from the ponds and streams.

Marnie, who has a degree in fine arts, admits there is no defined colour scheme or design element, preferring instead a relaxed, informal, cottage style with lots of nooks, crannies and secret seating areas — a garden you can't see all at once.

She does, however, love colour throughout the seasons. "There is no real downtime in my garden," she says.

"Early spring bursts forth with daffodils and other plants, but the height of bloom is late July. Living in cottage country, I favour plants I can enjoy later in the season without the bugs." — KATHY WOOD

Midsummer marvels **A few of the beauties that grace Marnie Wright's garden**

Some of the more than 100 hostas Marnie grows.

'El Desperado' daylily

The cheerful spirit of sunflowers permeates the garden.

'Raspberry Wine' bee balm

TRACY COX

This unnamed poppy is a blushing beauty.

The dirt on soil: Creating a successful garden from the ground up

HOW-TO It's obvious plants grow in soil, but have you ever stopped to consider what soil really is?

It's a combination of rock particles and minerals, organic matter, oxygen, water and micro-organisms. Most garden soil is a mixture of sand, silt and clay, with one type predominating. To find out what you've got, squeeze a handful of slightly damp soil. If it just falls apart, you likely have sand.

If it forms a hard, smooth ball, you're at the other end of the spectrum with clay. If your soil resembles crumbly chocolate cake and is easy to dig, you've won the gardener's equivalent of the lottery — loam, which is about 20 per cent clay, 40 per cent sand and 40 per cent silt.

Most garden plants thrive in loamy soil that's moist but well drained, a seeming contradiction that means it retains moisture but isn't too wet. In very sandy soil, water flows through too quickly, so it dries out fast and causes nutrients to leach away. Clay soils are rich in mineral-based elements and nutrients plants need, but they can easily become waterlogged as vital air pores fill with water.

To find out what you've got, squeeze a handful of slightly damp soil.

— YVONNE CUNNINGTON

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Savvy design from the outside in

Visitors to the Sales Centre for Savvy Condominiums at Cosmo can now envision the lifestyle potential in this building more vividly, since Menkes enlisted Bryon Patton and Associates to appoint a model living room and kitchen/dining area in the presentation environment. Urban sophisticates who are snapping up the suites in the third and final phase of the highly successful Cosmo community at Yonge and Sheppard can appreciate the classic modern styling. In the design, Patton reflects the sensibilities of a market that he says is "savvy in design, savvy in fashion and aware of the environment."

This concept is evident in Savvy's design from the outside in. Rafael Bigauskas Architects created a stunning pre-cast, glass and concrete exterior that will rise as a modern beacon from a lush, eco-friendly landscaping plan by Strybos Barron King Landscape Architects that incorporates native Ontario plantings and materials.

Patton's interior designs capture this feeling as well, with finishing and furnishing choices that are modern, striking and grounded in earthy elements. Resembling a black-and-white photo with a shot of colour, the colour palette for the living room and kitchen/dining area is based on greys and blacks punctuated with wasabi green accents – something Patton says "provides some zing to the scheme."

He explains the hardwood flooring adds a natural aspect to the surroundings.

"We chose a warm grey wash colour, reminiscent of driftwood on a beach or warm, weathered wood decking."

Patton injects this earthy theme into the sleek décor again with the kitchen table. "The wood is willow with active edging, which is the way tree bark grows, rather than being cut straight. It's a very natural look, and references the eco-friendly feeling of the green living wall."

Patton designed the lobby in a similar eco-chic theme, and a 24-hour concierge will greet guests and residents in this space. Building amenities also include The Savvy Club, with its high-style party room, private dining room, games room, theatre room, indoor swimming pool, state-of-the-art fitness centre, saunas and change rooms.

Rising to 20 storeys on the north side of Glendora Avenue, west of Tradewind Avenue, in exciting downtown North York, Savvy will offer 260 value-packed suites. The Yonge-Sheppard subway station is steps away, and residents reach Highway 401 in minutes.

Premium in-suite appointments include plank laminate flooring throughout, granite kitchen countertops, mosaic tile backsplash, designer cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. This "Menkes Green" condominium also features environmentally friendly conservation initiatives for a healthier, more energy-efficient environment, beginning with its location at the Yonge-Sheppard Subway Station which will lessen the need for vehicle use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Among the green features are Energy Star™ appliances, double-glazed Low-E windows, dual-flush toilets, "all off" light switches and an innovative "green roof."

The Savvy Sales Centre is at 34 Glendora Ave., east of Yonge Street and south of Sheppard Avenue. Hours are Monday to Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., Friday to Sunday and Holidays from noon to 5 p.m.

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Dealing with condo boards

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan

jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

Q I recently purchased a condo that I plan on selling and have been informed that the management is restricting access to the building by real estate agents to one evening a week and a two-hour time frame on another day. This will make my agent's job of marketing my unit very difficult. What can I do about this?

A Owning a condominium is not like owning a detached house. You are living in a communal building with common elements used by all residents such as hallways, elevators, parking garages and recreational facilities.

The board of directors is empowered to make rules that govern the activities of the residents for the good of the whole.

As such, they can decide to restrict access by outside parties if they deem it to be for the good of the whole. In your circumstances, the board of directors may see a constant parade of real estate agents and respective potential buyers as disruptive to the owners who are actually residing in their units.

This is not unheard of, especially in buildings where there has been a great number of investments purchases.

The process to rectify this problem is to bring a motion at a board meeting to remove the restriction, however, the board members are probably resident owners and are not very likely to be receptive to the idea.

The only other way around this is to vote out the current board when election time comes around and then have a more receptive board remove the restriction.

Your question, however, points to a broader issue of which condo owners should be aware.

There is a set of rules and regulations for each building and these rules can affect a variety of choices that owners make.

There are a host of rules that can govern condominium living such as: Pets (i.e. no large dogs or limits on the number of pets); window coverings (i.e. all the same colour); floor coverings (i.e. 70 per cent of floors to be covered with carpeting); and visitor parking, just to mention a few.

If you have specific living requirements such as ownership of a number of exotic pets, you should turn to the rules and regulations of the condominium before you purchase, otherwise you may find that you are searching for a new home for a much loved animal.

You can bring a motion at a board meeting to remove the restriction, however, board members are probably resident owners and are unlikely to be receptive to the idea.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors, jeff@cowanandtaylor.com. The information contained in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

New dreamhomes & condominiums Magazine
To learn more about new homes real estate, pick up your FREE copy of New dreamhomes & condominiums Magazine at your nearest DreamBox.

Plugging into safety at home

One of the major elements in the successful performance of work around the home, both inside and outside, is the proper choice and use of tools.

In this respect, the seal of the Canadian Standards Association is a reference because it indicates that the tools bearing the seal respect the Canadian Standards of manufacturing and safety and are equipped with a ground wire or double insulation. This is very practical.

Here are a few tips to help you use your tools safely:

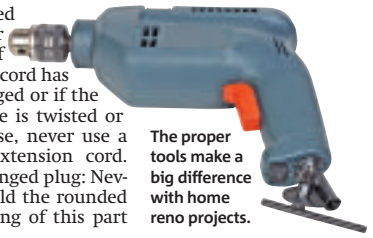
• The power cord: Do not handle the tool by its cord. This tends to damage the cord (and the damage is not always visible).

• The plug and the handle: Grip the plug (not the cord) to disconnect the tool and use the handle to move it about.

• Damaged tools: Never use a tool if the electric cord has been damaged or if the ground wire is twisted or cut. Likewise, never use a damaged extension cord.

• Three-pronged plug: Never cut or fold the rounded ground prong of this part of the tool.

• Power cord: When using an electric saw or drill, keep the electric cord behind you to be certain that you do not accidentally cut into it.



The proper tools make a big difference with home reno projects.

NEWS CANADA

Summer reading material: The new IKEA catalogue

HOME DÉCOR For some folks, the highlight of midsummer is the August long weekend. For others, it's the annual launch of the IKEA catalogue.

To get your mitts on a copy of the new edition, which launches this week, visit ikea.ca. Meanwhile, here are three of the key trends in its pages:

Chiaroscuro

The high contrast of black and white can be found for every room in the house. Examples include: A new sophisticated high gloss black Pax wardrobe; the ultra-modern Applad kitchen in matte black; and the lustrous Norrsten dining table and cabinet in black glass and white high gloss, respectively.

Polychrome

Colour continues as a strong trend for 2009 with the presence of yellow, orange and green. Kitchen choices now include Rubrik/Applad yellow or orange door styles. There's also a bright canary yellow Trollsta sideboard, new colours in Kramfors and Tylosand sofas, and a green glass Pax wardrobe door.

Natural order

Textiles and artwork are heavily influenced with nature motifs. The Karlstad sofa has a new leaf textile and the Besta storage system offers a door style that mimics wood grain in a polarizing high gloss finish.

The new IKEA catalogue launches this week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Potato pleasure
In select Sobeys stores across Ontario, Chippery is allowing customers to enjoy a fresh, all-natural bag of chips at almost the same moment they are made, in-store, in their special Chippery Cooker. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Look for firm and blemish-free (no eyes) potatoes. A green tinge caused by prolonged light exposure indicates the presence of solanine, which can be toxic if eaten in quantity."

BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO TORONTO

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Celebrating the spud

Versatile, inexpensive and nutritious, the ever so humble potato is finally getting its 15 minutes of fame. The United Nations General Assembly has named 2008 the International Year of the Potato in recognition of the tuber's 5,000 years on the planet and the fact that it can grow in poor soil and keep many hungry people alive. While grocery stores tend to market potatoes by colour or by cooking method, you'll find novelty spuds such as fingerlings, mini potatoes, red skinned yellow-fleshed potatoes and blue potatoes in local farmers' market and specialty grocers. The season for many of these potatoes is short, so get them while you can.

Creamy Potato and Dill Salad

If time permits, make salad the day before as flavour improves overnight. The buttermilk provides a tangy flavour and a creamy consistency. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 lb (1 kg) small red or white potatoes, unpeeled
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) white wine vinegar

Dressing:
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) light mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) buttermilk or plain low fat yogurt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh dill

METHOD:

Scrub potatoes and cover with cold water in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender but not soft, about 15 minutes. Drain in colander until cool enough to handle.

Cut in halves or quarters, depending on size. Place in large bowl and sprinkle with vinegar. Let stand a few minutes until vinegar is absorbed.

Dressing: Place mustard and garlic in small bowl. Gradually whisk in mayonnaise to blend, then buttermilk, salt and pepper. Stir in dill. Pour over potatoes and stir gently to mix. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

The United Nations General Assembly has named 2008 the International Year of the Potato.

Potato tips:
- Scrub rather than peel potatoes. The skin adds fibre, colour and texture but also prevents the potatoes from getting too watery. For even cooking, pick similar sized potatoes.
- Waxy or boiling potatoes: Long white, round red or round white with a thin skin, these potatoes are lower in starch and higher in moisture. They keep their shape, making them good for boiling, steaming, roasting, scalloped or gratin dishes.
- Floury or baking potatoes: Such as Russet or Idaho, have a long shape and thicker skin. High in starch and low in moisture, these are a good choice for baking or mashing.
- All-purpose potatoes: Such as the yellow-fleshed Yukon Gold have an even balance of starch and water, making it a good all-rounder.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

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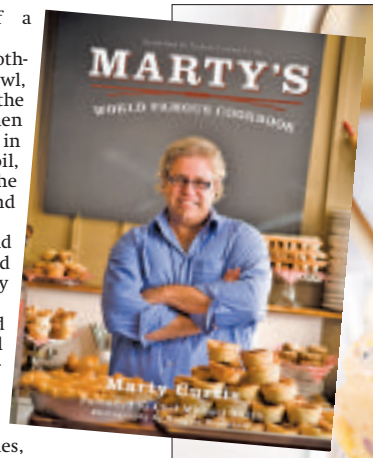
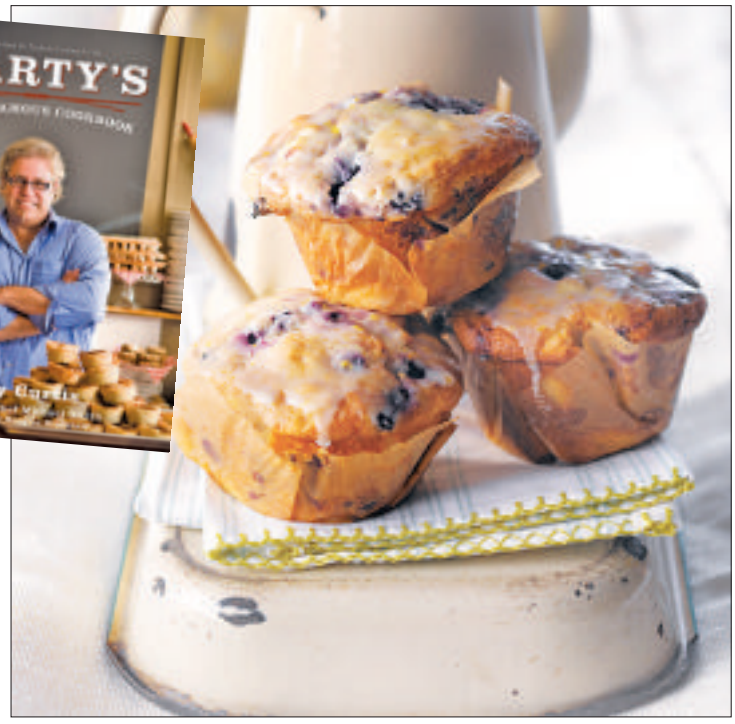
KWV

Billy's Best Bottles
"Cave Spring's Musqué is one of the most delightful local whites I've ever tasted. It would rock anyone's world — novice drinkers and snobs alike." To read this week's Billy's Best Bottles column, visit metronews.ca.

World-famous café creations

Have you tasted the best buttertart in the world? Well, unless you have been to Marty's World Famous Café in Muskoka, you haven't tasted anything that comes even close — the Lonely Planet series of guidebooks says so. Now in Marty's World Famous Cookbook, Marty Curtis is finally giving away the secret recipe for this delectable tart and a wide array of recipes for other amazing fare you can also find at his legendary café. Whitecap Books gave Metro this recipe for these fruity, moist muffins:




There's often a lineup in Marty's World Famous Café for these one-of-a-kind muffins.

Lemon, Blueberry, and Cream Cheese Muffins

There's often a lineup for these one-of-a-kind muffins. They're easy to make, too. You can substitute blueberries for equal amounts of raspberries, strawberries, or blackberries for an entirely new muffin experience.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/3 cups granulated sugar
- 3 tsp baking powder
- one 250 g package low-fat cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cups vegetable oil
- 1 cup 2% milk
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1-2 Tbsp lemon rind
- 1 cup frozen blueberries

Glaze:

- 1 Tbsp lemon rind
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups icing sugar

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 365 F. Grease a 6-large-cup muffin pan or Marty's Buttertart Pan with oil.

For the muffins, in a bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, and baking powder.

Warm a knife in hot water, cut the cream cheese into julienne strips, and then cross-cut into pea-size bits. Warm the knife regularly for smooth cuts. Add cream cheese to the dry ingredients. Break up the bits by stirring with the head of a whisk.

In another bowl, whisk the eggs, then whisk in the oil, then the milk and lemon rind and juice. Add to the dry ingredients and fold until just combined.

Add the blueberries, and fold gently.

Fill the prepared pans with batter to just under the top line. Bake for 30–35 minutes.

Cool in the pan for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, make the glaze by combining the lemon rind and juice with the icing sugar. Add a touch of hot water if the glaze needs to be thinner. Brush over the muffins.

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Langdon eyes Revolver gig
Actress Liv Tyler's estranged husband Royston Langdon is auditioning in Los Angeles to be Velvet Revolver's lead singer. The band's former front man, Scott Weiland, left the group in April. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

Rogen row

Comedy star Seth Rogen was reportedly thrown out of a party for his own movie, Pineapple Express, after fellow revellers accused him of smoking marijuana. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Geoffrey Kelly, from left, Vince R. Ditrich, John Mann, Hugh McMillan and Tobin Frank are Spirit of the West.

Still got the Spirit

Spirit of the West celebrates 25th anniversary with CD, tour

JIM REYNO
jim.reyno@metronews.ca

In a shoebox, in a garage, somewhere in Vancouver — there might be a hit. Maybe a drinking anthem like Home For a Rest, maybe a singalong classic like And if Venice is Sinking.

John Mann and Geoffrey Kelly, the songwriting team and co-founders of Celtic/pop/rockers Spirit of the West, are always sharing ideas, recording stuff.

"We have a lot of songs on tape that have absolutely no lyrics, with one of us just scatting the melody lines. Just reams of these mini discs everywhere," said Mann, who keeps some in a shoebox in his garage.

"At some point, we're going to have to go through them because I know we have some really good ideas there. But we just keep moving on, and moving on."

For 25 years. To celebrate, the five-piece band is touring and has released a double-CD retrospective: Spirituality 1983-2008: The Consummate Compendium. The 32 songs — including two new ones — were picked by the band.

"There's certain songs we couldn't leave out, like And if Venice Is Sinking, Save This House and Home for a Rest," said Mann.

"But there are also songs on the album we hadn't been playing much, that we really loved and felt were good songs. They were more for ourselves, really, than for the fans."

Mann mentions Not Just a Train, recorded for the film My American Cousin, and the dark Pulling Lame: "There was a time when we were playing more electric, heavier songs, and we wanted that to be reflected, too. Because that was always a fun way to get our ya-ya's out."

Not that Spirit of the West is known for keeping its ya-ya's in. The band has always been about the crammed club, the flowing drinks and the immediacy of the performance.

"When we're playing live, we definitely pour our hearts into it," said Mann.

"We're proud of what we do as a live band. We feel like we really put on a show and we work hard when we're out there. And we have fun — we're such great pals."

Still — a quarter of a century later — Mann and Kelly keep moving on.

"We get together at each other's house and make each other coffee, and see what we have," said Mann. "It's a rare time that we come up with nothing.

"We'll always come up with something."

Go West

- **Who:** Spirit of the West
- **What:** To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the band is touring and has released a two-CD retrospective. Spirituality 1983-2008: The Consummate Compendium contains 32 songs.
- **Where:** The band appears with James Murdoch at the Horseshoe Tavern on Aug. 1. Tickets: $21.50 (advance), $25 (at the door).

Hindu leaders happy Guru not getting much love

MOVIES Hindu leaders have claimed victory in their campaign against Mike Myers' new film The Love Guru after the movie failed to wow cinema audiences across America.

Religious leaders called the movie "morally offensive" to Hinduism and urged followers of the religion to boycott the picture.

The Love Guru debuted at No. 4 at the U.S. box office on its June release, taking just $14 million US in its opening weekend.

The film has taken a gross total of just $31 million in the U.S. in the five weeks since its June 20 release. Anne Hathaway's spy comedy Get Smart was released the same weekend and has so far taken a gross total of $124 million for the same period in the U.S. IMDB.COM

Stone faces suit over quake

LEGAL Sharon Stone is facing a $1-billion US lawsuit from the victims of China's recent earthquake after she blamed the disaster on "karma," imdb.com reports.

The actress provoked outrage with her comments in May, linking the death of more than 67,000 victims of the natural disaster to China's treatment of Tibetans.

Stone apologized, but a New York lawyer has rallied more than 1,000 survivors and victims' relatives to serve Stone with legal documents, demanding a further apology and threatening to sue.

Attorney Ming Hai says: "For the families who have lost their loved ones or lost limbs or suffered severe injuries, your … statement and act has caused extreme emotional distress." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Greek star Foster charged in DUI case

LEGAL Actor Scott Michael Foster has been charged with two misdemeanours for driving under the influence following his arrest last week, imdb.com reports.

The star of the comedy-drama Greek was taken into police custody in Hollywood last Monday after cops noticed he was intoxicated during a routine traffic stop. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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50 Cent buys rights to story
50 Cent has bought up the rights to his ex-girlfriend Shaniqua Tompkins' life story so she can never pen a book about her romance with the rapper. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Keys, White do Bond theme

MUSIC It's a double-O duet. Alicia Keys and Jack White have recorded the theme song for the new James Bond film, Quantum of Solace, producers said yesterday.

The R&B singer and White Stripes front man have teamed up for Another Way to Die, the first duet to be chosen as a Bond theme.

Producers said White has written and produced the song and also plays drums, as well as singing with 11-time Grammy winner Keys.

Previous Bond themes have been performed by the likes of Paul McCartney, Duran Duran and Madonna, and each new film's tune always produces intense speculation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meet Duffy, the anti-diva

KATE CARRAWAY
for Metro Canada

Born Aimee Duffy in a coastal village in northern Wales, soul-pop singer Duffy (like Canada's Leslie Feist, this one just uses her surname) has fast become one of the hottest British exports.

Singer Duffy can move from a sly whisper to a powerful soul wail. She's at the Phoenix on Saturday.

Four years ago, her demo was picked up by a record executive at the storied Rough Trade Records in London. This spring, Duffy released her debut full-length album, Rockferry, which was a sudden and unexpected success.

Elfin, blond and blue-eyed, Duffy is 24 and looks it. She has the same scruffy bangs, messy lengths of hair and studied bohemian-chic style as any number of downtown girls from London or anywhere else with a pulse.

Her gamine look, though, has nothing on her voice. Wide and intense, it moves from a sly whisper to a powerful soul wail, reminiscent of various musical traditions (soul, blues, pop-oriented girl groups) that peaked long before Duffy was born.

In the British music press, Duffy is known for her wide-eyed charm and anti-diva attitude. Cool precisely because she's never tried to be, Duffy has admitted to reporters that her biggest vices are drunk-dialling and buying expensive shoes. This uncommon naivete has hardly wounded her output, though.

Rockferry followed the release of two EPs, 2004's Aimee Duffy (all in Welsh, Duffy's first language) and the recent Live in London, which includes live tracks from the debut full-length. The title track from Rockferry is a classic, romantic protest song. As the first single, Duffy introduces herself as deeply feeling, committed to telling emotional truths and unabashedly defiant.

The second single from the album, Mercy, is the best one. A winkingly dirty dance floor come-hither, Mercy has become Duffy's calling card.

Playing the Phoenix on Saturday, the pint-sized girl with the stadium voice is likely to impress: Her reputation already precedes her.

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Not complaining
Pop star Britney Spears' ex-husband Kevin Federline says he's "been having a good summer" and "can't complain." Spears is to pay him $20,000 US a month for child support. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Newcomer tops nominees

Newcomer Jessie Farrell leads the nominees for Canadian Country Music Awards this year.

The Vancouver singer raked in seven nominations, including best single, album, songwriter and female artist.

Other leading nominees include Winnipeg's Doc Walker with six, Calgary's Paul Brandt with five, and Gord Bamford of Lacombe, Alta., with four. Nova Scotia's George Canyon and Deric Ruttan, from Bracebridge, Ont., each nabbed three nominations.

The awards will be handed out at a gala in Winnipeg on Sept. 8. Country star Terri Clark will host the bash, which will feature performances by Farrell, Canyon, Emerson Drive and Johnny Reid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Singer Terri Clark will host the Canadian Country Music Awards.

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Winehouse dad suspects spiked drink

Singer Amy Winehouse's dad, Mitch, believes his daughter had to be rushed to the emergency room earlier this week because someone allegedly spiked her drink with a party drug. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Idol's Castro records song in Toronto

REALITY TV American Idol crooner Jason Castro made good use of his time in Toronto by recording a song for an upcoming movie.

Castro

The 21-year-old, who placed fourth on the singing show, was in town last weekend to perform at the Air Canada Centre with his fellow Top 10 finalists. The day before the show, Castro popped by Cherry Beach Sound to record a track for an upcoming Mexican film, Tierra de Tigres.

The film is currently shooting in Mexico and is due to be released next spring. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

... will return

Nine Inch Nails

Album: The Slip
Label: The Null Corporation
Release date: July 22
Rating:

SO THIS IS what being liberated from record-label constraints sounds like. And no matter the choice of format — free digital download (out since May 5), a CD with or without the limited-edition DVD set or even vinyl (due Aug. 5) — the end result will be the same: Trent Reznor capably channels his tortured soul through aggressive industrial power-pop or the occasional dark ambient instrumental trip. All accessible and ear pleasing to boot. Reznor calls this a "thank you" to his fans. Um, you're welcome. **Ian Nathanson**

Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis

Album: Two Men With The Blues
Label: Blue Note/EMI
Release date: July 8
Rating:

WILLIE'S BEEN DOING some strange stuff in recent years and not all of it has worked. I mean, did we really need a Willie Nelson reggae album? But this collaboration with jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis makes sense. Willie's been performing standards like Georgia On My Mind, Night Life and Stardust all his life. So has Wynton. Both are masters of phrasing and they lay it down easily on this relaxed live set. Wynton's performance shows respect, never interfering with Willie's understated vocals. There's some rough edges, but who cares? They're having way too much fun. **Graham Rockingham**

CD Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Lalah Hathaway

Album: Self Portrait
Label: Stax
Release date: July 29
Rating:

THIS IS THE kind of old-school R&B album a lot of A-list pop singers would like to make but fail miserably at. It requires more than overdone beats and superfluous note-bending. Hathaway pours fiery soul onto cool jazz for an album that will play perfectly when you bring your date home for that goodnight cocktail and slow-dance to the bedroom. Tasty stuff, produced with style and performed with restrained precision just like they used to in the '70s. Caution: Don't let it put you to sleep. **Graham Rockingham**

Alice Cooper

Album: Along Came A Spider
Label: SPV/Fusion 3
Release date: July 29
Rating:

IT'S BEST TO ignore the silly serial killer theatrics on this album. Alice Cooper lost his ability to shock years ago. It now seems so ... routine. (What's truly scary is that Alice spends his down time golfing with Sen. John McCain). Put all that aside and what you're left with is some superb, if formulaic, riff rock. Alice employs two great guitarists in his band — Keri Keli and Jason Hook — who are joined by Slash for some old school pyrotechnics on the track Vengeance Is Mine. These new tracks will play well in concert. **Graham Rockingham**

Primal Scream

Album: Beautiful Future
Label: Atlantic/Warner
Release date: July 22
Rating:

THERE'S A LOT you can say about Primal Scream — after all they've been around for 20 years — but restless probably describes this British band best. Over the years the group has tackled dance, psychadelia, '70s rock and now, straight-up pop music. Working with Bjorn Yttling of Peter, Bjorn and John fame, the group has created a number of catchy hooks, but there's not enough meat to sustain an entire album. Despite the wildly infectious title track, they end up sounding like every other U.K. pop act out there. **Bryan Borzykowski**

Alice Cooper is back with a new album, Along Came A Spider.

GETTY IMAGES

CSNY

Album: Deja Vu Live
Label: Reprise/Warner
Release date: July 22
Rating:

LAST YEAR'S CSNY tour was a very good idea. Releasing a live CD from it wasn't. The tour was one of those 'You had to be there' experiences. On this record, much of Neil Young's earnest "impeach the president/stop the war" message sounds merely sophomoric. David Crosby and Graham Nash are in fine singing form, but Stephen Stills' voice on Wooden Ships is painful. If you want to hear what these four were capable of live get a hold of 1974's Four Way Street and take in the guitar jam on Carry On. **Graham Rockingham**

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 7/31/08	265	353	2	TVO	Failed Inventions		The Best of The Agenda		New Tricks		Masterworks		Best-Agenda
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Last Comic Standing Finalists are revealed. (N)				Swingtown (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Who Do-Think	jPod (HDTV) (DVS)		The Girls of Summer (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV)		Hopkins (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Jeopardy!	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		So You Think You Can Dance		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Greatest American Dog		Final 24 "JFK Jr"		E! Itself (PA) (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Frontières	Esprit	Esprit	*Milou en mai* ★★★ (1990, Com. dramatique) Michel Piccoli.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Backstab* ★★ (1990, Suspense) James Brolin.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Brother 10 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Last Comic Standing Finalists are revealed. (N)				Fear Itself (PA) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	A New Smile, a New Life		Grey's Anatomy		Hopkins (HDTV) (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Grey's Anatomy		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Real Olympics		Real Olympics		In the Life		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Traveler"		Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Our World	The Hour Joan Jett.		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		The Suze Orman Show		Asia Squawk Box		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at New York Yankees. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	CFL Football Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Montreal Alouettes. (HDTV) (Live)						CFL Football BC Lions at Edmonton Eskimos.		
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	Everest: Man	Jet Set	Mark Williams' Big Bangs		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time (N)	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Wrecked (N)	Wrecked (N)	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: Ooze*		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Open House	Save Us-House	House
	570	580	29	MM	Instant Star	Born to Be	Muchmusic Countdown			Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48 Cabdriver.		The First 48		Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Movie				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Canadian Idol		Canadian Idol	Uncovered	Celebracadabra		Canadian Idol
	575	583	38	CMT	(6) Ultimate "Nashville"		Karaoke Star "Vancouver" (N)		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "Lethargica"		Intelligence		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	Secret Diary	Secret Diary	House
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	In the Mind ...	Literature of Margaret Atwood		*Impromptu* ★★★ (1991, Comedy-Drama) Judy Davis.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	The Biggest Loser		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Under Covers"		Servants of Evil: Waffen SS		Exploring Hitler's Mountain		NCIS "Under Covers"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	Reality Bites	Tom Green	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Junk Brothers	The Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Hell Date	Black Carpet	Access	*The Inkwell* ★ (1994, Comedy) Larenz Tate, Joe Morton.				Hell Date
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1 "Chimera"		Star Trek: Voyager		The Triangle "Part Three" (Part 3 of 3)				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Screen	Cribs	4REAL	Next	Living on Edge	Living on Edge	True Life (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Inside Hollywood (DVS)		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Fun-Funeral	Keeping Up	*The Terry Fox Story* ★★ (1983, Docudrama) Eric Fryer.				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Katie & Peter: Next Chapter		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	The Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	*Boeing Boeing* ★★ (1965, Comédie) Tony Curtis, Jerry Lewis.				Héros "Inattendus" (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Rent* (2005)
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		*This Matter of Marriage* (1998, Romance) Leslie Hope.				Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	(6:45) *Becoming Jane* ★★ (2007, Biography)				*Silk* ★ (2007, Drama) Keira Knightley, Michael Pitt.				*A Good Year*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Cutthroat Isle.*	*Montana Moon* ★★ (1930, Western)			*Pirates* ★ (1986, Adventure) Walter Matthau.				*Hard Target*

critics' corner

Intelligence

Spalding (Klea Scott) attempts to sneak into Reardon's (Ian Tracey) criminal operation by placing an undercover agent in his strip club in this episode. Reardon is stuck with damage control — not because of the agent, but because of his brother (Bernie Coulson), who foolishly ordered the death of a snitch. 10 AM on SHO

Ugly Betty

Go, Betty! After a visit to Mode by Justin's (Mark Indelicato) class has the girls feeling fat and ditching their lunches, Betty (America Ferrera) persuades Daniel (Eric Mabius) to use realistically sized women for the magazine's Fashion Week show. Amanda (Becki Newton) consults a psychic (guest star Annie Potts) for help in finding out who her father is. Wilhelmina (Vanessa Williams) gets some bad news about her efforts to get pregnant. 8 PM on CITY

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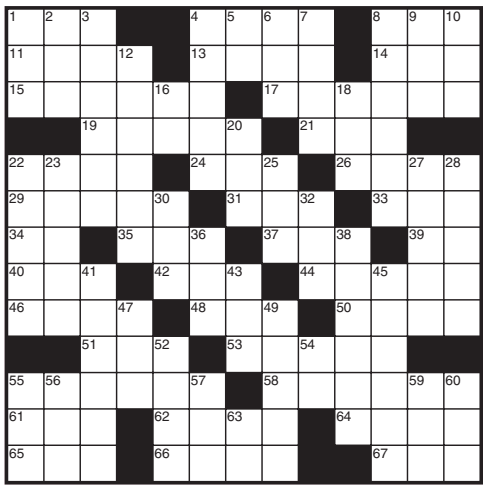
A royal premiere

The next instalment in the Harry Potter film franchise has been chosen to feature at this year's Royal Film Performance. Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince will have its European premiere in November in front of a member of the U.K. royal family. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Low-lying clouds
2 NW state
3 Mississippi port
4 Valleys
5 Egyptian sun god
6 Advantages
7 Sedaka or Simon
8 Winter apple
9 Hobby ender
10 Princess Di's niece
12 Tenderfoot
16 Scale note
18 Cartoon mice — and Meek
20 Gloomy
22 Perhaps
23 Spoken
25 Hull sealant
27 Bread ingredient
28 Markdowns
30 Famous cathedral town
32 Tierra — Fuego
36 Boastful knight
38 Medieval tenant
41 Rain forest parrots
43 Kitchen item
45 Snuck a look
47 Clean the floor
49 Roused up
52 Kennel noise
54 Startled cry
55 Frat letter
56 L-o-n-g time
57 Female antelope
59 — had it!
60 Close kin
63 "10" actress

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Crossword across

1 Little lie
4 Toothy smile
8 Curved bone
11 Thor's father
13 Bowling alley part
14 Employ
15 Aplenty
17 Brief snooze
19 Roast cookers
21 Guitarist — Paul
22 Ankle-length
24 Took a break
26 Janitor's need
29 Mrs. Kramden
31 Informal parent
33 Asian export
34 Hey!
35 Caribou kin
37 Race the engine
39 Singer — Jolson
40 Mooch
42 Mouth, slangily
44 Slip back
46 Party cheese
48 Swerve off course
50 Arms the alarm
51 Demure
53 Rodeo gear
55 Enjoyed, as benefits
58 Tan slacks
61 Practical question
62 Hoop's place
64 Name in blue jeans
65 Come- — (lures)
66 Feudal serf
67 Society girl

previous day's answer

P	S	S	T	■	F	O	E	■	M	A	R	E
A	L	O	E	■	L	A	X	■	E	G	O	S
H	A	L	L	■	A	R	C	■	L	O	B	S
■	W	O	L	F	S	■	L	A	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	A	H	E	A	D	■	E	B	B
■	G	R	A	N	■	B	I	Z	A	R	R	E
M	O	O	D	■	R	O	M	■	M	I	E	N
C	A	L	D	R	O	N	■	E	Y	E	D	■
I	L	L	■	T	O	Y	E	D	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	E	T	■	A	S	C	O	T	■
J	O	K	E	■	E	G	G	■	A	K	I	N
I	D	O	L	■	R	A	E	■	F	R	E	E
M	E	A	T	■	S	I	R	■	E	A	S	T

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A genius engages you in a discussion. Someone in crisis makes flippant remarks. Weird coincidences are due to drastic changes.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A stagnant situation appears to be shifting. Simply paying attention to a problem will fix it. A mediator will make changes in policy.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A man presents a bizarre challenge. You must employ self-imposed restrictions. Get what you need to proceed.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Someone's nerves are near the breaking point. Temporary barriers will dissolve. A sensual man makes advances toward a woman.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
An enemy wants to burn bridges. Arguments about self-indulgence will disgust you. Phone calls are more effective after lunch.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Remain calm if lousy luck hits. Something radically changes your opinion. Somebody is stuck repeating old patterns.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
An unapproachable guy wants attention. Love shakes your soul to its foundation. A stranger knocks on the door.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
Delete all secret information from your mind. Someone will compliment you. Tone down somebody's hostile approach.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Take care to explain yourself thoroughly. Clouds will show their silver linings. Don't get exasperated while travelling.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A playmate wants you to take charge. Confusion may disrupt someone's carefully laid plans. A visitor isn't as bad as feared.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
People praise your ability to get along with others. Believe in yourself and you will make it. A special situation gets on your nerves.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
Compliment a love-struck girl on her appearance. Insist on carrying out a revolting obligation. Construction will slow travellers.

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Sudoku

					7		8	
2	5				1	3		
	1		4			2		
	9			2	6		1	
6								8
	4		5	7			9	
		5			9		3	
		9	1				5	7
	8		6					

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

1	6	8	5	7	9	2	4	3
5	2	9	1	4	3	6	8	7
3	7	4	6	2	8	1	5	9
4	3	6	9	5	2	8	7	1
7	8	2	3	1	6	4	9	5
9	1	5	4	8	7	3	2	6
2	9	1	8	3	5	7	6	4
8	5	3	7	6	4	9	1	2
6	4	7	2	9	1	5	3	8

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Toronto weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Variable. 26°	Clear. 17°	Partly cloudy. 27°/ 19°	Showers. 27°/ 18°	Partly cloudy. 27°/ 17°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature Normals
High: 26.6°
Low: 14.9°

Records
High: 36.1°/1975
Low: 6.7°/1965

Sunrise: 6:06 a.m.
Sunset: 8:42 p.m.
Moonrise: 4:49 a.m.
Moonset: 8:26 p.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data

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The Weather Network

Smith to reprise futuristic role

Will Smith, left, is to revive his role in the futuristic action movie I Am Legend for a prequel. Director Francis Lawrence has confirmed he is working on a followup to the hit 2007 film. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Hudson and Armstrong call it quits

BREAKUP Kate Hudson and Lance Armstrong called it quits this weekend after a three-month romance, us-magazine.com reports.

"There was no drama or ugliness — They just decided to end things," a source close to the couple tells Us. "There is no hatred, just sadness."

The pair quickly became inseparable with sightings of them in Austin, Texas, New York and Los Angeles — though both dodged questions about their relationship.

In the short time they were together, the 29-year-old actress was seen with the 36-year-old cyclist at many of his races and events, including his three-day Lance Armstrong Livestrong Summit in Columbus, Ohio, this past weekend.

It was at the conference that Hudson and Armstrong decided to go their separate ways, a source tells Us.

Each had introduced the other to family. Hudson's mom Goldie Hawn gave what seemed to be her approval at a July 1 lunch at The Ivy at the Shore. Also, Hudson's four-year-old son Ryder went to a Father's Day brunch with Armstrong — and dad Chris Robinson — in June.

A rep for Armstrong had no comment while a rep for Hudson could not be reached.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Doherty not over Moss

BREAKUP Pete Doherty is not over Kate Moss, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Babyshambles singer claims he has not been in a relationship since splitting from the supermodel a year ago.

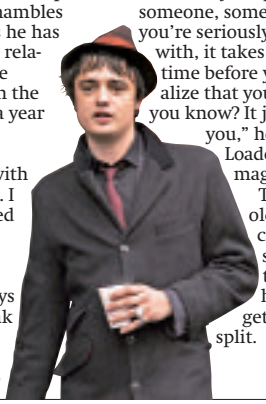
"I haven't shacked up with anyone since. I haven't shared my life with anyone," he said.

Doherty says his heartbreak has been so great he hasn't spoken to Moss since they went their separate ways.

"When you split up with someone, someone that you're seriously in love with, it takes a lot of time before you even realize that you're upset, you know? It just hits you," he added to Loaded magazine.

The 29-year-old hopes he can use his songwriting to finally help him get over the split.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Swift denies dating Jonas

RUMOUR They'd sure make a right pretty couple, but Taylor Swift says she's not dating fellow singer Joe Jonas of the Jonas Brothers, People.com reports. "We're all friends," she said.

Besides, the 18-year-old has other pressing teenage concerns — namely graduating from high school.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Dickinson flashes pilot

CONTROVERSY Janice Dickinson sure knows how to distract a pilot, PageSix.com reports. The so-called original supermodel was on a recent private NetJets flight from Los Angeles to New York when she strolled into the cockpit and flashed the pilot, said a source.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aniston's trial marriage

RELATIONSHIPS Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer are planning a "trial marriage," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple, who have been dating for three months, are said to be keen to test the strength of their relationship and think Mayer moving into Aniston's house is the perfect first step.

"John wants to settle down as much as Jennifer does," a source said. "What's more, he's been telling her that he thinks she is the one and she believes him."

Mayer's move into Jennifer's Beverly Hills mansion is set to happen after his tour ends in September.

The couple are also reportedly planning a family.

The source added to Britain's Grazia magazine: "John is the first guy since Brad who has talked seriously about having children and Jennifer is very excited about it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Yes! Another stage in the Tour de Lance is complete and our courageous cancer-eating cyclist still wears the yellow jersey. I'm definitely ordering my beige "DUMPSTRONG" bracelet. My old yellow bracelet has too many cig burns on it.

Janice Dickinson is 53 years old. In model years, that's 1,006. The pilot is said to be recovering comfortably.

Not to downplay the serious nature of alcoholism, but I must disagree with Ms. Nielson. In fact, she reached rock bottom 16 years ago when she married Marc Gastineau. The handful of New York Jets fans reading this who can remember the early '90s are nodding silently right now.

A Britney Spears reality show is a terrible idea. It means the next time she "forgets" to wear panties, there's bound to be far more sophisticated photographic evidence. Not a good thing, unless you're a trauma counsellor.

Kudos to "Anisyer." A trial marriage is a great idea, because it makes the transition to the inevitable trial separation so much more seamless.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Best dressed couple
Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, right, have been named 2008's Best Dressed Couple. Vanity Fair magazine praised Jolie for the way she dressed while pregnant and noted Pitt's numerous stylish red-carpet appearances. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Foxy's lawyer fires back at book lawsuit

LEGAL Rapper Foxy Brown has lashed out at publishing executives after they accused her of failing to deliver an autobiography she was paid to write, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Bosses at Simon and Schuster, Inc. claim Brown, whose real name is Inga Marchand, was handed $75,000 US in 2005 to pen her memoirs in a book titled Broken Silence.

The deadline was set for February 2006, but she is said to have never completed the work.

However, Brown insists company bosses approved her request to put the project on hold while she underwent treatment for sudden hearing loss after she was diagnosed with severe deafness in both ears in December 2005.

"With Simon & Schuster's blessings, Foxy Brown underwent extensive surgical procedures and a lengthy recovery time, fighting to restore her hearing," her attorney Laura Dilimetin tells AllHipHop.com.

The statement goes on to claim that it was at this point that "Simon & Schuster decided not to go forward with the project."

Dilimetin adds, "Many attempts were made by Foxy Brown's agents to resurrect the deal, to no avail … I find it suspect that after all of these years of silence, Simon & Schuster pick now to bring this meritless action when they were the ones to halt the project."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Ne-Yo proud of positive image

MEDIA Ne-Yo has slammed the media for rewarding the bad behaviour of troubled celebrities with hoards of press coverage, rather than focusing on their talents, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 28-year-old R&B star is proud of that fact that he's managed to dodge negative press throughout his singing career — but admits he's shocked that his fellow musicians are showered with media attention resulting from arrests, affairs and drug abuse.

"Image is the most difficult thing," he said. "Back in the day, you were judged off your music, or how many hits you had or the quality of your music."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gomez denies Miley rift

RUMOUR When it comes to Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez tells Extra, "There's nothing there to talk about," usmagazine.com reports.

Rumours of a rift swirled last week after an old YouTube clip of Cyrus, 15, mocking Gomez, 16, hit the blogs. It surfaced the same week it was reported that Gomez was dating Cyrus' ex Nick Jonas. Cyrus later apologized.

But Gomez says the clip "is just the media wanting something to talk about and wanting us to fight. Everywhere you go, you're hearing things that are untrue. You just got to learn that if I don't say it, physically out of my mouth on camera, it's not true."

To prove she has no ill will, Gomez says she picked up "Miley's new CD. I really like her CD."

Gomez says she is thankful for fan support.

"It's overwhelming … to know there are hundreds of kids out there that look up to me," she says. "I know that's a big responsibility. I am also very confident to say that it is wonderful and I'll do my best that I can do to be the best role model I can be."

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Jamie Lynn headed to the altar

WEDDING Jamie Lynn Spears is marrying fiance Casey Aldridge in the fall, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Zoey 101 actress, who recently gave birth to the couple's first child Maddie, is busy planning her nuptials and intends to get married at her home in Mississippi.

"She loves everything about the area where she lives," a friend of the 17-year-old said. "She's not going to get married in some luxury resort in the Caribbean or a hotel in Beverley Hills.

Her own backyard with just the people who matter most is more Jamie Lynn's style."

Big sister Britney is set to be Jamie Lynn's maid of honour, while Casey's sister Ashlee is expected to be a bridesmaid.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Nielsen's drinking was out of control

RECOVERING Former actress Brigitte Nielsen was so hooked on alcohol she heard voices in her head telling her to drink more, imdb.com reports. Nielsen checked into rehab a year ago as her drinking spiralled out of control.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Brit to film new reality TV series

PEOPLE Britney Spears is rumoured to be filming a new reality TV show, femalefirsts.co.uk reports. The pop star has reportedly ordered her entourage to carry professional video cameras with them at all times to capture her antics on film.

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Cash Purchase Price

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GL Sport model shown

Limited model shown

2008 Elantra L

$15,845 Starting Price♦
-$2,850 Cash Purchase Adjustment

$12,995♦
Cash Purchase Price

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GO 883 KM ON ONE TANK‡
HWY 6.0L/100KM • 47 MPG‡
CITY 8.4L/100KM • 34 MPG‡

‡Approximate distance based on highway mileage.

GTP model shown

2008 Tiburon GS

$18,995 Starting Price♦
-$3,000 Cash Purchase Adjustment

$15,995♦
Cash Purchase Price

USE LESS & SAVE
GO 775 KM ON ONE TANK‡
HWY 7.1L/100KM • 40 MPG‡
CITY 10.2L/100KM • 28 MPG‡

‡Approximate distance based on highway mileage.

Limited 4WD model shown

2008 Tucson L

$21,195 Starting Price♦
-$4,200 Cash Purchase Adjustment

$16,995♦
Cash Purchase Price

USE LESS & SAVE
GO 744 KM ON ONE TANK‡
HWY 7.8L/100KM • 36 MPG‡
CITY 10.4L/100KM • 27 MPG‡

‡Approximate distance based on highway mileage.

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